

Mr. Speaker, Professor Turner has given back to his community four-fold. His vivid memories of the early days of UCR, the joys of building a new university, seeing it grow and become a formidable institution, and recruiting faculty members, some of who are still on the faculty, serve to give us a foundation by which we may judge the progress of our community and future generations.

Professor Turner has been and continues to be a shining example of a person with passion and principles, who has strived to improve the cultural and political direction of our nation. We have a vast system of public higher education in this country; a network of great state universities and colleges. Today we enjoy academic excellence in America as it is enjoyed nowhere else in the world. Professor Turner is one of those responsible for that part of America's incredible educational experiment known as UCR.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today, Congress comes together to honor those veterans who selflessly made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. More than 42 million people have served the United States in war, and more than 1 million have died in battle or service. This moment of silence is a tribute to them, but does not fully express our gratitude for their bravery and sacrifices.

Next weekend, the National World War II Memorial will officially open. More than 16 million Americans served in the Armed Forces during World War II, and more than 400,000 died. The memorial will stand as a reminder of the commitment, bravery, and sacrifice of those who died, and those who survived.

At the same time, today, more than 100,000 service members are risking their lives in the dangerous operations taking place in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. The daily and vivid reminders of their courage provide a window into the sacrifices of the past. These reminders should harden our resolve to work for a peaceful future in a just world.

Veterans have continuously defended our democracy and renewed America's promise through their efforts. No service to our nation comes with more peril or is more deserving of our gratitude. With our silence we pay them tribute. With our actions we can begin to repay our debt.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, each year, Memorial Day gives us the opportunity to honor the brave men and women who have so selflessly stood in harm's way to protect the fundamental freedoms of our great nation. Our soldiers have made so many sac-

rifices from the Revolutionary War, to the World Wars, to the modern day engagement in Iraq. All of our military personnel deserve our utmost respect, gratitude and care. The great sacrifices that they have made must not be forgotten.

Army Spc. Kyle A. Griffin of Emerson, New Jersey, is one such brave soldier whose sacrifice we must recognize. He laid down his very own life for liberty fighting in Iraq this past year, while defending the very freedoms and rights Americans enjoy today. He did not die in vain, but with a very noble mission in mind—to protect our nation and our citizens against those who wish to see us fail. We must always remember the valiant efforts of Spc. Griffin and continue to pay tribute to all soldiers who have paid the ultimate price.

In 1868 Major General John A. Logan established a "Decoration Day" on May 30 as a day of remembrance for the dead of the Civil War. General Logan ordered his posts to decorate the local cemeteries "with the choicest flowers of springtime" to honor the thousands killed during those four terrible years.

General Logan's original Decoration Day proclamation called us to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice, "We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance . . . Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."

However, the remembrance and dedication General Logan meant to preserve through Decoration Day, seems to have gotten lost over the many years. A recent Gallup poll found that just 28% of Americans are able to explain why we celebrate our modern day version of Decoration Day—Memorial Day.

We may sometimes take for granted the many liberties we enjoy in America, but they have all been earned through the sacrifice paid by so many of the members of our armed forces. Many soldiers have died for our liberty and prosperity. They acted with patriotism and commitment to their country. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

I urge you to take this charge to heart and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country by stopping what you are doing at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day to participate in the National Moment of Remembrance. Consider what the world might look like if not for the service of generations of Americans in uniform. Take a moment to remember those who gave their lives, so that you may have freedom. But, don't just stop there.

Take time throughout the rest of the year to reach out to the members of our armed services who are fighting freedom's newest enemies. While we take this day to honor those who have given so much for our freedom in the past, our thoughts should also be drawn on a daily basis to the brave men and women of our armed services who are fighting for the cause of freedom and democracy around the globe today. Tell them that the citizens of our state and nation are grateful for their service, and thank them and their families for the daily sacrifices that allow them to serve.

We must always remember our fallen soldiers, our veterans and our military currently serving as we celebrate Memorial Day. They deserve the highest praise of all.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD BEDAL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard W. Bedal, a dedicated member of the Santa Cruz community, upon his retirement. Beginning his commitment to public service in 1970 as a Legal Clerk in the Superior Court Clerk's Office, Mr. Bedal has continued to serve the county of Santa Cruz for over 30 years. Mr. Bedal will be enjoying his retirement in the company of his family and wife, Martha.

In 1975, Mr. Bedal became a Judge Pro Tem in the Small Claims and Traffic Court before accepting the position of Assistant County Clerk in 1976. After spending 6 years supervising the Superior Court Clerk's Office, Mr. Bedal was elected in 1982 and then re-elected in 1986 and 1990 to the position of County Clerk-Recorder for the County of Santa Cruz. His public service took a new turn in 1994 when he was elected to the consolidated office of County Clerk-Recorder and Treasurer-Tax Collector, continuing to serve in this office until his retirement this year. Though a well deserved retirement, Mr. Bedal's long dedication to the county of Santa Cruz will be missed.

In addition to serving the county of Santa Cruz, Mr. Bedal also has been the President of the California Association of County-Treasurers-Tax Collectors, President of the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Cruz, President of the County Recorders' Association of California, and President of the Santa Cruz County Employee's Credit Union throughout his many years of service to his community. An avid biker, Mr. Bedal has also completed the California AIDS ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles and once even biked from Santa Cruz to Santa Barbara to visit his daughter.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Mr. Richard W. Bedal's accomplishments and contributions to our community. I am immensely grateful for his dedication and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF SYBILLE IRWIN

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional teacher at Bella Vista High School, in Fair Oaks, California. Sybille Irwin, after 32 years of dedicated service, has been chosen as the Fair Oaks Teacher of the Year.

Sybille Irwin is a German teacher who has single-handedly managed the German Program at Bella Vista High School. All German classes, German 1 through Honors German 5 are taught by Ms. Irwin. Her classes are rigorous and her standards are high. At the same time, she creates a classroom atmosphere of friendliness and fun. Over the years, her creativity, her organization and her passion for the language have resulted in many cultural events including the annual Oktoberfest celebration for the entire Fair Oaks community. She has organized trips to Germany